

AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK



Economics Editor
Dennis A. Shields
(202) 694-5331
dshields@econ.ag.gov

Associate Editors
Anne B. W. Effland
(202) 694-5319
Judith E. Sommer
(202) 694-5322

Managing Editor
Mary Reardon
(202) 694-5136

Art Director
Victor Phillips, Jr.

Assistant Editor
Carrie Ingoglia
(202) 694-5383

Design, Layout, Graphics
Cynthia Ray

Statistical Coordinator
David Johnson
(202) 694-5324

Tabular Composition
Cliola Peterson

2 Briefs

Livestock, Dairy, & Poultry: Broiler Prospects Shaped by Financial Crises Abroad, Lower Feed Costs

Specialty Crops: Green Industry Cash Receipts Growing Despite Import Competition

Farm Structure: More Farmers Contracting To Manage Risk

8 Commodity Spotlight

Cigarette Price Increase Follows Tobacco Pact
Thomas Capehart, Jr.

11 Farm Finance

Net Farm Income To Decline but Remain Near 1990-98 Average
Mitch Morehart & Robert McElroy

15 Resources & Environment

Conservation on Rented Farmland: A Focus on U.S. Corn Production
Meredith Soule, Abebayehu Tegene, & Keith Wiebe

18 Special Article

Transportation Technology Eases the Journey for Perishables Going Abroad
Nicole S. Ballenger, William T. Coyle, & others

Statistical Indicators

23	Summary	40	World Agriculture
24	U.S. & Foreign Economic Data	41	U.S. Agricultural Trade
26	Farm Prices	45	Farm Income
28	Producer & Consumer Prices	50	Food Expenditures
30	Farm-Retail Price Spreads	50	Transportation
32	Livestock & Products	51	Indicators of Farm Productivity
36	Crops & Products	52	Food Supply & Use

53 Index 1994-98

61 Agricultural Outlook Forum Schedule

Published by the Economic Research Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture. Materials may be reprinted without permission. Current and back issues are available on the ERS website on the Internet at www.econ.ag.gov/epubs/pdf/agout/ao.htm. To access articles by AutoFAX dial (202) 694-5700; document #00550 and 00540.

Contents have been approved by the World Agricultural Outlook Board and the summary released December 21, 1998. Price and quantity forecasts are based on the December 11, 1998 *World Agricultural Supply and Demand Estimates*.

Subscriptions: \$65 per year (\$130 to foreign addresses, including Canada). Order from ERS-NASS, 5285 Port Royal Rd., Springfield, VA 22161. Or call 1-800-999-6779 or 1-703-605-6220. Checks payable to ERS-NASS. For free email subscription (text only): Send message "subscribe agricultural-outlook" (no quotes or subject title) to usda-reports@usda.mannlib.cornell.edu

The next issue (AGO-259) is scheduled for mailing on March 4, 1999. If not delivered by March 24, call (202) 694-5383 (please have mailing label handy). The full text will also be distributed electronically; call (202) 694-5050 for further information.

Cover photo: Grant Heilman Photography